



## NEWS ROUNDUP

17 SEPTEMBER 2024 [ 08:00 am]

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- Trump stalks global climate talks as COP29 draws near
- DoST, UNDP ink MoU to bolster strategic collaboration

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- Shifting funds: DSWD budget faces realignment
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By: Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson

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## DAILY TRIBUNE

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## **THE JAPAN TIMES**

### **[Trump stalks global climate talks as COP29 draws near](#)**

By: Nick Perry

The prospect of Donald Trump returning as president is hanging over crucial U.N.-sponsored climate negotiations, with countries "holding back" their positions until they know who sits in the White House.

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **[DoST, UNDP ink MoU to bolster strategic collaboration](#)**

Department of Science and Technology (DoST) Secretary Renato Solidum Jr. and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in the Philippines Resident Representative Selva Ramachandran inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) that targets to bolster strategic cooperation between the two agencies in the areas of resilience, climate change, green and circular economy, electric mobility, energy security and transition to renewable energy, smart and sustainable communities, and digital readiness.

## **CCC IN THE NEWS:**

## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

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Sen. Imee Marcos (right) leads the Finance Subcommittee hearing on Monday, September 16, 2024, to review the Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) proposed 2025 budget.

## **NEWS5**

### **['Heal our planet': Government seeks global action to save depleting ozone layer](#)**

By: Gabriel Kim Leal

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Monday sought urgent global action to address the depletion of the ozone layer.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### **[BSP says climate risks can be mitigated by regulatory action](#)**

By: Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson

Central Bank regulatory action can cushion the impact of climate risks on the financial system, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Eli M. Remolona said.

He cited the potential of measures such as designating systemically important banks or assigning appropriate capital levels for risks taken.

“These tools can be harnessed to push for greater climate adaptation,” Mr. Remolona was quoted saying in a speech earlier this month.

The governor called climate risk the “ultimate systemic risk.”

Meanwhile, the BSP called on the private sector to ramp up its support for sustainability and climate change-related projects.

“We need to encourage innovative financing mechanisms that allow projects to access international capital. This goes hand in hand with our efforts to develop our domestic capital market, to provide alternative sources of financing,” BSP Assistant Governor Pia Bernadette Roman Tayag said.

Ms. Tayag noted the need to boost sustainability efforts, especially for vulnerable parts of the economy such as small businesses.

Meanwhile, BSP Assistant Governor Lyn I. Javier said that the central bank works closely with its supervised institutions to enhance risk management.

Capacity-building is also crucial, Ms. Javier added.

“This is where development partners, such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), come in because they can bring in experts that could capacitate the industry.”

The BSP has said it is considering more incentives to encourage banks to finance green and sustainability projects.

These include relaxing regulations on normal credit operations for refinanced green loans, as well as setting rules for sustainability-themed unit investment trusts, among others.

Last year, the BSP approved the temporary increase to 15% in banks' single-borrower limit to allow them to extend loans or finance investments for eligible green or sustainable projects, including transitional activities.

It also approved the gradual reduction of the reserve requirement ratio (RRR) on sustainable bonds issued by banks. This year, the RRR is set at 1% for new and existing sustainable bond issuances.

## DAILY TRIBUNE

### [At climate change's mercy](#)

The devastation wrought by typhoon Bebinca on China's eastern coast, particularly in Shanghai, serves as a stark reminder of the escalating threats posed by climate change. As the strongest typhoon to hit the region in decades, "Bebinca's" destructive force underscores the urgency of addressing this global crisis.

The Philippines, a vulnerable nation often in the crosshairs of typhoons and other extreme weather events, has firsthand experience of the devastating consequences of climate change. Just a few weeks ago typhoon "Carina" wreaked havoc on the country, causing widespread damage to infrastructure, agriculture and livelihoods.

Like many other developing nations, the Philippines is disproportionately affected by climate change, despite contributing minimally to its causes.

The increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, such as typhoons, hurricanes and floods, are direct consequences of global warming. Rising sea levels, ocean acidification and changes in precipitation patterns are further exacerbating the impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities. Likewise, the economic and social costs of these disasters are staggering, and the long-term implications for sustainable development are profound.

Typhoon "Bebinca's" devastation highlights the urgent need for global cooperation to address climate change. The Paris Agreement, a landmark international treaty aimed at combating climate change, provides a framework for such cooperation. However, more ambitious targets and stronger commitments are needed to keep global warming from rising above 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Rich nations, which have historically contributed the most to greenhouse gas emissions, have a moral and ethical obligation to provide substantial compensation to vulnerable countries like the Philippines.

The CoP deal, a mechanism for addressing loss and damage from climate change, offers a potential avenue for such compensation. However, the current provisions are insufficient, and there is a need for a more equitable and just arrangement.

Beyond the immediate impacts of extreme weather events, climate change also poses significant long-term threats to food security, water resources and human health. Rising

sea levels are already affecting coastal communities, displacing millions of people and eroding livelihoods. Changes in precipitation patterns are leading to more frequent and severe droughts and floods, impacting agriculture and water availability. Extreme heat events are also increasing the risk of heat-related illnesses and deaths.

The health consequences of climate change are particularly severe in vulnerable countries like the Philippines. Extreme weather events can disrupt healthcare services, leading to outbreaks of infectious diseases and malnutrition. Climate change can also exacerbate existing health problems, such as respiratory diseases and cardiovascular conditions.

The agricultural sector is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and the Philippines is no exception. According to the Department of Agriculture, the combined effects of Typhoon “Carina” and the enhanced southwest monsoon (habagat) in July 2024 caused over P4 billion in losses and damage to the country’s agriculture sector.

The twin weather disturbances affected 12 regions and 82,824 hectares of agricultural areas, resulting in total production losses of 68,690 metric tons (MT). Rice was the most affected commodity, with losses amounting to P1.08 billion and 18,629 MT. Other affected crops included corn, high-value crops and cassava.

The damage to agriculture has significant implications for food security in the Philippines. As a predominantly agricultural country, the Philippines relies heavily on domestic production to meet its food needs. The destruction of crops and agricultural infrastructure can lead to shortages, price increases and food insecurity, particularly among vulnerable populations.

This includes reducing greenhouse gas emissions through a transition to clean energy sources, investing in climate adaptation measures to build resilience in vulnerable communities, and providing adequate compensation to those affected by climate-related disasters.

No thanks to weather disturbances, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s “aspiration” to provide Filipinos rice at P20 per kilo against its present selling price of over twice as much grows dimmer and dimmer.

As such, in order to address the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change, a comprehensive and integrated approach by the government and its private sector partners is needed.

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### Double whammy for PH eco warriors

Once again, the Philippines has earned the title and disgrace of being Asia's most dangerous hotspot for environmental defenders, based on the latest report of the international watchdog Global Witness.

But "once again" is putting it lightly, for the country has actually received the dubious honor for the 11th year in a row, a troubling sign of the government's lack of resolve to protect the brave few who are fighting for land and environmental rights in this part of the world.

According to the Sept. 10 report, "Missing Voices," the Philippines logged the highest number of green activists killed across the continent from 2012 to 2023. Last year alone, some 17 land and environmental rights defenders were slain in the country, half of them small-scale farmers.

Globally, the Philippines ranked fifth on the list topped by Colombia, with 79 deaths, followed by Brazil, with 25, and Honduras and Mexico, with 18 each. By chance, the annual Global Watch report came just on the same day the fugitive former governor Joel Reyes of Palawan, wanted for the Jan. 24, 2011 murder of broadcaster and environmentalist Gerry Ortega, surrendered to the authorities in hospital on Sept. 10.

#### Precarious situation

The brutal murder of Ortega, a prominent voice against mining in his island province, grabbed headlines more than a decade ago and continues to be closely watched as a test case in the fight against impunity and environmental rights abuse in the Philippines.

But wretched as it is, his case is not unique.

In 2010, the country's top botanist, Dr. Leonard Co, along with two aides, was killed by the military after they were mistaken as rebels during a combat operation in Kananga, Leyte, an incident the Commission on Human Rights said "illustrates the precarious situation of environmentalists in rural areas where armed conflicts occur."

In its report, Global Witness said a total of 468 environmental defenders were killed across Asia between 2012 and 2023. Almost two-thirds of them—or 298— were in the Philippines.



But attacks on environmental defenders are not limited to the use of deadly force. “Nonlethal attacks are also increasingly used as tactics to suppress activism across the region,” the report noted.

### Enforced disappearances

In Asia, a total 1,033 violations of this nature were reported within the study period, including seven enforced disappearances in the Philippines. Two of them were the activists Jhed Tamano and Jonila Castro, who were “violently abducted” by armed men in September 2023.

### Article continues after this advertisement

After 17 days, the pair appeared at a press conference arranged by the government’s anticommunist task force in Bulacan, where they were expected to renounce their purported affiliation with rebel groups. Instead, they courageously exposed their ordeal at the hands of the military.

“This trend is part of the tactics used by authorities to intimidate people into silence,” Global Watch said. In its 2023 report encompassing the previous year, the watchdog said President Marcos, since coming into power, “has so far failed” to address human rights violations. “Instead, he has focused his agenda on business and economic interests, raising continued concerns amongst civil society about an increase in mining and other resource exploitation at the cost of human rights and the safety of defenders,” it said.

To be fair, the President has often emphasized the vulnerability of the country to the impact of climate change and the need to build resilience among the people. “As we can see in all the world, weather events are ... getting more extreme such as torrential rains that instantly shift to scorching heat waves or vice versa,” Mr. Marcos said during his third State of the Nation Address last July.

### Lamentably silent

But the President was lamentably silent on the risks faced by environmental crusaders working tirelessly to help communities weather the brunt of climate change, the destruction of natural resources, and the social, cultural, and economic consequences that come with it.

Colombia, the No. 1 deadliest country for environmental defenders on the Global Witness list, had been quick to issue a statement recognizing the “serious situation that is derived from socio-ecological conflicts associated with drug trafficking, extractivist practices connected to illicit economies, and the reconfiguration of the armed conflict.”

Alas, there was not a word from Philippine officials, their heads buried stubbornly in the sand.

It’s ironic that despite the escalating danger from natural and human disasters in these parts, the biggest threats facing green warriors are the same as ever: moneyed interests and an indifferent government.

What a shame, and doubly so, because last week, at around the time the Global Watch list was published, came another study, the 2024 World Risk Report, which—for the third year in succession—placed the Philippines first among 193 countries in terms of disaster risk from extreme natural events and negative climate change impacts.

## **RAPPLER**

### **9 cities in Metro Manila under Signal No. 1 due to Tropical Depression Gener**

By: Acor Arceo

Nine cities in the northern part of Metro Manila were among the additional areas placed under Signal No. 1 at 5 am on Tuesday, September 17, as Tropical Depression Gener continued to cross Northern Luzon.

Gener had made landfall in Palanan, Isabela, at 11 pm on Monday, September 16.

The tropical depression was last spotted in the vicinity of Alicia, Isabela, before dawn on Tuesday. It slightly accelerated, moving west at 30 kilometers per hour from the previous 25 km/h.

It still has maximum sustained winds of 55 km/h and gustiness of up to 70 km/h.

But the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said "slight weakening is also possible" as Gener "interacts with the mountainous terrain of Northern Luzon."

Here are the areas under Signal No. 1 as of 5 am on Tuesday, where strong winds are expected from Gener:

Cagayan including Babuyan Islands

Isabela

Quirino

Nueva Vizcaya

Apayao

Kalinga

Abra

Ifugao

Mountain Province

Benguet

Ilocos Norte

Ilocos Sur

La Union

Pangasinan

Zambales

Tarlac

Nueva Ecija

Pampanga

Bulacan

northern and central parts of Bataan (Dinalupihan, Orani, Hermosa)

Aurora

northern part of Quezon (General Nakar, Infanta) including Polillo Islands

northern part of Rizal (Rodriguez, San Mateo)

northern part of Metro Manila (Quezon City, Caloocan City, Valenzuela City, Malabon City, Navotas City, Marikina City, City of Manila, San Juan City, Mandaluyong City)

For rainfall from the tropical depression, PAGASA maintained its forecast as of 5 am on Tuesday.

Tuesday, September 17

Heavy to intense rain (100-200 millimeters): Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino, Apayao, Kalinga, Mountain Province, Ifugao, Ilocos Norte, Aurora

Moderate to heavy rain (50-100 mm): rest of Cagayan Valley, rest of Cordillera Administrative Region, rest of Ilocos Region, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, Quezon, Rizal

Wednesday, September 18

Moderate to heavy rain (50-100 mm): Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Cordillera Administrative Region, Zambales, Bataan

Gener is projected to emerge over the coastal waters of Ilocos Sur or La Union on Tuesday.

After the tropical depression exits landmass, it is seen to move west over the West Philippine Sea until Thursday, September 19, before turning west northwest toward the southern part of China.

Also over the West Philippine Sea, Gener could intensify into a tropical storm on Tuesday evening or early Wednesday morning, September 18. During this period as well, it may leave the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR).

PAGASA also retained its rainfall forecast for the southwest monsoon or habagat, which is being enhanced by Gener and the tropical storm outside PAR, which has the international name Pulasan.

Tuesday, September 17

Heavy to intense rain (100-200 mm): Palawan, Occidental Mindoro, Aklan, Antique, Negros Occidental

Moderate to heavy rain (50-100 mm): rest of Mimaropa, Bicol, rest of Western Visayas, rest of Negros Island Region

Wednesday, September 18

Heavy to intense rain (100-200 mm): Palawan, Occidental Mindoro, Aklan, Antique, Negros Occidental

Moderate to heavy rain (50-100 mm): Metro Manila, Calabarzon, rest of Mimaropa, Bicol, rest of Western Visayas, rest of Negros Island Region, Central Visayas

Thursday, September 19

Heavy to intense rain (100-200 mm): Occidental Mindoro

Moderate to heavy rain (50-100 mm): Metro Manila, Zambales, Bataan, La Union, Pangasinan, rest of Mimaropa, Aklan, Antique

The enhanced southwest monsoon is bringing strong to gale-force gusts to these areas as well:

Tuesday, September 17

Batanes, Mimaropa, Bicol, Visayas, Mindanao

Wednesday, September 18

Zambales, Bataan, Pampanga, Bulacan, Metro Manila, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol, Visayas, Mindanao

Thursday, September 19

Isabela, Aurora, Pangasinan, Zambales, Bataan, Metro Manila, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol, Western Visayas, Caraga

For coastal waters, another gale warning was released at 5 am on Tuesday due to Gener and the enhanced southwest monsoon. Rough to very rough seas are expected for several coastal waters in the northern seaboard of Northern Luzon, the western and southern seaboards of Southern Luzon, the seaboards of the Visayas, and the western, northern, and eastern seaboards of Mindanao (waves 2.8 to 4.5 meters high). Travel is risky for small vessels.

Up to rough seas are also seen in the eastern seaboard of Bicol, the seaboard of the Visayas outside gale warning areas, and the eastern seaboards of Caraga and the Davao Region (waves 1.5 to 3 meters high).

The remaining seaboard of the Philippines not covered by the gale warning will have up to moderate seas (waves up to 2.5 meters high).

Meanwhile, Tropical Storm Pulasan was located 1,980 kilometers east of Central Luzon as of 3 am on Tuesday.

The tropical storm slowed down a bit, moving north northwest at 15 km/h from the previous 20 km/h.

It continues to have maximum sustained winds of 65 km/h and gustiness of up to 80 km/h.

Pulasan may enter PAR on Tuesday evening, and would be given the local name Helen.

Pulasan or the potential Helen will remain far from landmass, and its stay inside PAR will be brief as it could exit on Wednesday afternoon. After leaving PAR, it may head toward Japan's Ryukyu Islands and the East China Sea.

While Pulasan is not seen to hit land, it is enhancing the southwest monsoon, too.

Gener is the Philippines' seventh tropical cyclone for 2024, and the third for September. If Pulasan enters PAR, it would be the eighth for the year, and the fourth for the month.

## THE JAPAN TIMES

### [Trump stalks global climate talks as COP29 draws near](#)

By: Nick Perry

The prospect of Donald Trump returning as president is hanging over crucial U.N.-sponsored climate negotiations, with countries "holding back" their positions until they know who sits in the White House.

Veteran observers of climate diplomacy say uncertainty over the election outcome is stalking this November's COP29 summit, which starts just six days after voters decide between Trump and Kamala Harris.

The election lands awkwardly as governments try to build global consensus in coming months not just around climate but stronger protections for the environment and a treaty to address plastic pollution.

As president, Trump withdrew the United States from the Paris agreement on global warming — Joe Biden later rejoined the accord — and there are concerns over what his re-election might mean for climate action.

This year's negotiations hope to increase money for poorer countries to handle climate change, but some governments have not proposed a concrete dollar figure, wary of committing too soon.

"Everybody is holding back until they know who gets elected," said Mohamed Adow, a campaigner and head of research group Power Shift Africa.

This apparent wait-and-see approach has frustrated those seeking a new long-term commitment at COP29 from rich nations to pay the trillions of dollars needed for clean energy and climate adaptation in developing countries.

Ali Mohamed, chair of the African Group of Negotiators, accused developed countries of navel gazing and displaying "a lack of seriousness" at the bargaining table.

"The climate change situation really doesn't care about who is at the helm of the U.S., whether it is a Republican or a Democrat," he told reporters.

"Elections will come and go, but the problem is still there."

## Hedging bets

The months of lead-up sessions to COP29, which is being hosted this year in Azerbaijan, have been painfully slow even by the plodding standards of global climate diplomacy, participants say.

With just two months to go, there still isn't an agreed definition of "climate finance" let alone how much should be paid, which countries should receive it and how, and who should be on the hook for it.

isor at E3G, a think tank.

The U.S. election was "hanging over everyone, and it's hard to look past that sometimes."

Mohamed, who is Kenya's special climate envoy, described the latest round of discussions in Baku this month as "very disappointing."

"From the developed world, there's too much 'in-looking' and passing the buck," he said.

## Shaky ground

Divisions between rich and poor countries over who should pay for the damaging costs of climate change have always been fraught.

But the EU's reluctance to talk numbers could be partly explained by anxiety over the U.S. election, said Linda Kalcher, executive director of Strategic Perspectives, a European think tank.

Some developing countries are demanding north of \$1 trillion annually, a 10-fold increase on existing pledges.

If elected, Trump could slash funding for the climate and Ukraine, leaving the EU — which saw swings to the right in elections this year — footing the bill.

"It's really a very shaky, and not necessarily fertile, political setting to talk about higher climate finance numbers, and I think especially the anticipation of the U.S. election brings even bigger uncertainty," Kalcher told reporters.

"The moment they put a number in there, they will have higher pressure to actually stick to that number."



The United States has historically underpaid on climate finance and observers said a Trump victory would not stop a deal being reached.

But donors would nonetheless feel "pretty exposed" committing more cash if they couldn't count on Washington's support to pay its share and push China to do the same, Evans said.

"They (China) will not be under that pressure in a Trump scenario and similarly, other major emitters I think will feel a slight easing off of attention," he said.

Political leaders would be more pressed than usual at COP29 to make up for lost time, said Li Shuo, a Washington-based expert on climate diplomacy at the Asia Society Policy Institute.

He told reporters any progress until then would be incremental, at best.

"The real decisions... will only start to emerge after the U.S. election."

## THE MANILA TIMES

### [DoST, UNDP ink MoU to bolster strategic collaboration](#)

Department of Science and Technology (DoST) Secretary Renato Solidum Jr. and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in the Philippines Resident Representative Selva Ramachandran inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) that targets to bolster strategic cooperation between the two agencies in the areas of resilience, climate change, green and circular economy, electric mobility, energy security and transition to renewable energy, smart and sustainable communities, and digital readiness.

Signed in Taguig City, Solidum emphasized the importance of the MoU and said that the partnership is "another milestone in the efforts to foster a holistic and synergistic approach that leverages the power of science, technology and innovation."

The DoST chief further highlighted the agency's mandate to focus on impact-oriented research through collaboration with key partners and leveraging the power of business communities in the diffusion of innovative science and technology solutions.

Ramachandran echoed Solidum's sentiments and noted that these joint efforts will contribute toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the Philippines.

"Furthermore, this signing of the MoU will enable the realization of the DoST Strategic Plan 2023-2028 and the UNDP Country Program Document 2024-2028," he added.

The signing was witnessed by DoST Assistant Secretary for Development Cooperation Rodolfo Calzado Jr., Delegation of the European Union in the Philippines Head of Cooperation Marco Gemmer, UNDP Philippines Deputy Resident Representative Edwine Carrie and other officials.

DoST and UNDP have a long history of partnership, the seeds of which were planted in the areas of disaster risk reduction, climate change modeling and hazard and risk mapping.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### BUSINESS MIRROR

#### [Shifting funds: DSWD budget faces realignment](#)

Sen. Imee Marcos (right) leads the Finance Subcommittee hearing on Monday, September 16, 2024, to review the Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) proposed 2025 budget.

Marcos raised concerns over the P1.7 billion allocated for disaster and climate change response, suggesting that the funds should be redirected to agencies with a more direct mandate, such as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Climate Change Commission.

DSWD Secretary Rex Gatchalian echoed the concern but clarified that the agency is adhering to the prescribed national budget.

Sen. Imee Marcos (right) leads the Finance Subcommittee hearing on Monday, September 16, 2024, to review the Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) proposed 2025 budget.

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DSWD Secretary Rex Gatchalian echoed the concern but clarified that the agency is adhering to the prescribed national budget.

The DSWD's proposed budget stands at P229.8 billion, part of the larger P6.352-trillion National Expenditure Program.

## NEWS5

### [‘Heal our planet’: Government seeks global action to save depleting ozone layer](#)

By: Gabriel Kim Leal

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Monday sought urgent global action to address the depletion of the ozone layer.

In a statement, the CCC warned that failure to act will exacerbate the troubling climate crisis, which has already caused extreme temperatures and health risks in recent years.

“The recovery of the ozone layer is an inspiring example of how global collaboration, anchored on decisive policies and sustained commitment, can heal our planet. But we cannot afford to be complacent. Our collective actions today will determine the future of our next generations,” said CCC executive director Robert Borje in marking International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.

The ozone layer, a thin part of Earth’s atmosphere, plays a crucial role in protecting the planet by absorbing harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays and helping regulate the climate.

The CCC stressed that the use of ozone-depleting substances like chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in refrigeration and certain chemicals in agriculture has significantly depleted the ozone layer.

“Without the ozone layer’s protection, heightened UV exposure would lead to increased cases of skin cancer, cataracts, and other radiation-related conditions. Moreover, the ongoing damage will aggravate climate change, contributing to droughts and weakening natural carbon sinks like forests and oceans,” added the statement.

The Philippines is a signatory to the Montreal Protocol, which banned the use of CFCs. The CCC, however, maintained that more must be done to “build a truly climate-resilient future.”

“Our continued commitment to the Montreal Protocol must be accompanied by our pursuit of broader climate action, including protecting biodiversity, restoring ecosystems, and promoting sustainable practices,” added the CCC. “We can safeguard the ozone layer and combat the growing threat of climate change.”

The Philippines is among the countries that are most vulnerable to climate change.

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